

Information and Resources for Digital Television Conversion —

On June 12, 2009, all over-the air full power television broadcasts will become digital only. Households with over-the-air analog only televisions will no longer be able to receive full-power television service unless they either:

1. Buy a digital-to-analog converter box to hook up to their analog television set;
2. Acquire a digital television or an analog television equipped with a digital tuner; or
3. Subscribe to cable, satellite, or telephone company television services, which will likely provide for the conversion of digital signals to their analog customers.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the Department of Commerce has established a digital-to-analog converter box program that partially subsidizes consumer purchases of converter boxes. NTIA provides up to two forty-dollar coupons to requesting U.S. households. The coupons have been issued since January 1, 2008, and will continue to be issued until July 31, 2009, and must be used within 90 days after issuance towards the purchase of a stand alone device used solely for digital-to-analog conversion. The DTV Delay Act allows for expired, but unused coupons, to be replaced. The two fastest ways to request coupons are online at www.dtv2009.gov or by calling 1-800- DTV-2009. A searchable list of digital-to-analog convertor box retailers can be found at www.dtv.gov or www.dtv2009.gov, however, consumers should call individual retailers concerning availability.

Resources:

- What is DTV?: <http://dtv.gov/whatisdtv.html>
- FAQ's about the Conversion: <http://dtv.gov/consumercorner.html>
- List of Stations Transitioning: <http://www.dtv.gov/stationlist.htm>
- DTV Reception Maps: <http://www.fcc.gov/mb/engineering/maps/>
- DTV Support Centers or Events: <http://dtv.gov/map.htm>
- DTV Interactive Troubleshooting Guide: <http://dtv.gov/iguide.htm>
- FCC Call Center: 1-888-Call-FCC